United Nations S/2014/579

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 8 August 2014 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to Europe and Africa from 8 to 14 August 2014. The mission plans to visit Belgium, the Netherlands, South Sudan, Somalia and Kenya. The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission, which are annexed hereto.

Several members will co-lead the different legs of the mission. In Belgium, I will be co-leading the mission with Mr. Michael Bliss. In the Netherlands, Ambassador Cristián Pedro Barros Melet and Mr. Olivier Jean Michel Maes will be co-leading. In South Sudan, Ambassador Samantha Power and Ambassador Eugene Richard Gasana will be co-leading the mission and in Somalia I will be co-leading the mission with Ambassador Usman Sarki.

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission is as follows:

Mr. Mario Oyarzábal (Argentina)
Mr. Michael Edward Bliss (Australia)
Ambassador Mahamat Zene Cherif (Chad)
Ambassador Cristián Pedro Barros Melet (Chile)
Mr. Zhao Yong (China)
Mr. Alexis Lamek (France)
Ambassador Dina Kawar (Jordan)
Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaitė (Lithuania)
Mr. Olivier Jean Michel Maes (Luxembourg)
Ambassador Usman Sarki (Nigeria)
Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Alexander Pankin (Russian Federation)
Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana (Rwanda)
Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Ambassador Samantha Power (United States of America)

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**
President of the Security Council

14-58995 (E) 130814

Please recycle

Annex

Security Council mission to Europe and Africa: terms of reference

Belgium

Co-leads: Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War. To pay tribute to the sacrifices of all those who served their country during that war.

To draw lessons from the First World War to assist the Security Council in discharging its mandate in maintaining international peace and security. To engage in discussions with representatives of civil society and academic institutions on the tools that the Council could deploy to better prevent conflict and loss of civilian life in situations of conflict.

To engage with the Government of Belgium on matters of mutual interest.

The Netherlands

Co-leads: Chile and Luxembourg

To underline the commitment of the Security Council to the international courts and tribunals located in The Hague in the light of the common objective of settling international disputes peacefully and establishing accountability for serious international crimes.

To express the support of the Security Council for the work of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, to visit the premises of the Court and to receive an update regarding its caseload and other developments.

To reaffirm the relationship between the Security Council and the International Criminal Court, to receive an update on the work of the Court and to discuss the interaction between it and the Council.

To reaffirm the relationship between the Security Council and the international criminal courts and tribunals located in The Hague and mandated by, or established with the support of, the Council (the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone) and to get first-hand updates on their activities and other developments.

To express gratitude to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for its close collaboration with the United Nations, including through the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission, established to implement Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and eliminate the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

To receive an update on progress in eliminating the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic.

To engage on matters of mutual interest with the Government of the Netherlands.

South Sudan

Co-leads: United States of America and Rwanda

To convey its deep alarm regarding the deteriorating political, security and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan resulting from the internal Sudan People's Liberation Movement political dispute and the subsequent violence caused by the country's political and military leaders, and to condemn actions that perpetuate the crisis.

To demand that all armed groups immediately cease all forms of violence, including sexual violence, renounce force as a means of resolving political grievances, comply with the cessation-of-hostilities agreement of 23 January 2014 and allow full access for the monitoring and verification teams of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

To engage directly with all parties in the IGAD-led multi-stakeholder political negotiations and to urge engagement in an open and fully inclusive national dialogue seeking to establish lasting peace, reconciliation and good governance through a transitional agenda and a government of national unity, including through the full and effective participation of youth, women, diverse communities, faith groups, civil society and formerly detained SPLM leaders.

To reiterate the serious concerns of the Security Council about the protection of civilians, including foreign nationals, and to emphasize the need to protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence.

To reaffirm the support of the Security Council to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and to receive a briefing on the implementation of Council resolution 2155 (2014), in particular as regards the reconfiguration of UNMISS in response to a more focused peacekeeping mandate.

To assess the situation of the more than 1 million internally displaced persons, including those seeking refuge in UNMISS compounds, to underscore the seriousness of the humanitarian crisis, which may soon reach the threshold of famine, and to advocate for the creation of the conditions necessary for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including the security and freedom of movement of United Nations, humanitarian and associated personnel.

To express serious concern at persistent restrictions placed upon and obstructions to the movement and operations of UNMISS, to strongly condemn the attacks by government and opposition forces and other groups on United Nations personnel and facilities and to call upon the Government of South Sudan to complete its investigations of these attacks in a swift and thorough manner and hold those responsible to account.

To emphasize that dismantling barriers to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) will be achieved only through a dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation and human rights, and to emphasize the importance of the full and effective participation of women at all levels, including through providing support to women's civil society organizations, incorporating gender expertise in peace talks and increasing the deployment of women in the military, police and civilian components of UNMISS.

To demand that all parties follow up on the commitments they recently made to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

Somalia

Co-leads: Nigeria and the United Kingdom

To recall the commitment of the Security Council to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political unity of Somalia.

To underline the support of the Security Council to the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia. To emphasize the support of the Council to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). To get an update from UNSOM on the implementation of its mandate, as set out in Council resolution 2158 (2014). To get an update on stabilization efforts in areas recovered from Al-Shabaab control.

To express its gratitude to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). To receive an update on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2124 (2013), in particular on progress in the AMISOM and Somali national army's military campaign against Al-Shabaab. To receive progress reports on AMISOM efforts towards reducing civilian casualties, including the establishment of a civilian casualty tracking, analysis and response cell.

To receive an update from the Federal Government of Somalia on the implementation of its requirements under the terms of the partial suspension of the arms embargo, as set out in Security Council resolution 2142 (2014). To reiterate to the Federal Government of Somalia that any decision on the continuation of the partial suspension of the arms embargo shall be taken in view of its efforts to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

To reiterate to the Federal Government of Somalia the urgent need for progress in the development of a federal system, the review and implementation of the Somali Provisional Federal Constitution and a clear plan for elections in 2016.

To reaffirm the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding. To get an update on the impact of the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to promote increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in Somali institutions.

To underscore the concern of the Security Council at the ongoing incidence of sexual violence in Somalia. To highlight the support of the Council for, and get an update on, the action plan of the Federal Government of Somalia to end sexual violence, as well as the plan for implementing the joint communiqué of the Federal Government of Somalia and the United Nations on the prevention of sexual violence. To get an update on the work done by the United Nations to assist in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, including the strengthening of the justice and security sectors.

To reaffirm the importance of the swift and full implementation of the action plan of the Federal Government of Somalia to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the Somali national armed forces as well as the action plan to end the killing and maiming of children, both signed in 2012.

To reiterate its deep concern at the humanitarian situation in Somalia. To get a better understanding of some of the challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance and ways in which the international community can assist.

To underline the enduring support of the Security Council for greater peace and stability in Somalia, and to all actors working on the ground to this end.

Kenya

To engage on matters of mutual interest with the Government of Kenya.